

1999 INTERNATIONAL CFIDS/CFS/
M.E. AWARENESS DAY

HON. PATRICK J. TOOMEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 1999

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following proclamation for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Association of the Lehigh Valley joins the CFIDS Association of America in observing May 12, 1999 as International Chronic Fatigue and Immune Dysfunction Syndrome Awareness Day; and

Whereas, the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Association of the Lehigh Valley, a member of the CFIDS Support Network of the CFIDS Association of America, is celebrating their seventh year of service to the CFIDS community; and,

Whereas, the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Association of the Lehigh Valley has been awarded The CFIDS Support Network Action Award for Excellence in Service in the area of CFIDS Awareness Day in 1996, and for Excellence in commitment and service to the CFIDS Community in the area of Public Policy in 1995; and,

Whereas, chronic fatigue and immune dysfunction syndrome (CFIDS), also known as chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) is a complex illness which affects many different body systems and is characterized by neurological, rheumatological and immunological problems, incapacitating fatigue and numerous other symptoms that can be severely debilitating and can last for many years; and,

Whereas, it is imperative that education and training of health professionals regarding CFIDS be expanded, that further research be encouraged and that public awareness of this serious health problem be increased.

Now, therefore, Congressman Patrick J. Toomey recognizes May 12, 1999 as International Chronic Fatigue and Immune Dysfunction Syndrome Awareness Day, commends the Chronic Fatigue Association of the Lehigh Valley on its Seventh Anniversary, and pays tribute to its efforts to conquer CFIDS on behalf of those battling this disabling illness.

Signed and sealed this Twelfth Day of April, One Thousand, Nine Hundred and Ninety-Nine.

TRIBUTE TO AL MANN

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 1999

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute my dear friend, Al Mann, who is being honored this year at a gala event hosted by the San Fernando Economic Alliance. Al is, to put it succinctly, one of the most extraordinary men I know. The story of his life and business ventures is one that epitomizes not only the spirit of a true entrepreneur, but a true humanitarian.

Al is a veritable one-man industry in the field of medical devices. His numerous and

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

highly successful companies have included Siemens-Pacesetter, Inc., which manufactures cardiac pacemakers; Advanced Bionics Corporation, which is developing cochlear stimulation systems to restore hearing for the profoundly deaf; and MiniMed Inc., which develops, manufactures, and markets drug delivery devices including microinfusion pumps for treatment for various medical conditions.

Literally millions of people around the world lead lives that have been immeasurably improved by one of Al's products. He never, however, rests on his laurels. He is always thinking ahead, striving for another breakthrough in the ever-changing field of medical devices, combining his amazing creativity with his keen business acumen. Al is very much at home in a field filled with brilliant entrepreneurs.

Al's business career spans more than four decades. Long before anyone coined the term "high-tech", Al was involved with companies that fit that definition. In 1956, he started Spectrolab, an electro-optical and aerospace systems company, and four years later he launched Heliotek, a semiconductor and electro-optical components manufacturer. In 1972, he started Siemens-Pacesetter, which was his first foray into the medical device industry. In addition to the aforementioned companies, Al is Chairman of Second Sight LLC, which is in the process of developing a visual prosthesis for the blind.

Al is the quintessential civic-minded businessman, whose efforts to strengthen the biomedical industry in Southern California have received widespread praise. A few years ago Al made an extraordinarily generous donation from his personal funds to both USC and UCLA for the establishment of a Biomedical Engineering Institute at each of those universities. The institutes are part of the Al Mann Foundation, which was founded in 1986, and is devoted to the development of advanced medical devices in a variety of fields.

In yet another compartment of his remarkable life, Al has built three large projects under federal program supplying rent subsidized housing for the poor. His developments, in Granada Hills, Tustin and Huntington Beach, are model examples of low income housing. He has also developed tracts of ultra-expensive lots and built custom homes worth millions.

Al Mann is a true Renaissance Man. He is an engineer, an accomplished musician and a learned religious scholar conversant in art, music, literature, philosophy and almost any other topic. He is a tenacious and perfectionist workaholic, who pursues his business and humanitarian quests with boundless energy.

I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Al Mann. The dedication, integrity, hard work and commitment that he brings to every endeavor and his impressive record of service to mankind embody the ideals of excellence. I am very proud to be his friend.

May 14, 1999

TRIBUTE TO FELICIA WONG

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 1999

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Felicia Wong of Berkeley, California who has had the distinct honor of serving as a distinguished White House Fellow.

Last year, Ms. Wong became one of 17 outstanding citizens to join a long and prestigious list of former White House Fellows, including one of the Bay Area's most famous and successful businessmen, Robert D. Haas, Chairman and CEO of Levi Strauss and Company. Established in 1965, the White House Fellowship Program honors outstanding citizens across the United States who demonstrate excellence in community service, leadership, academic and professional endeavors. It is the nation's most prestigious fellowship for public service and leadership development. Over the past three decades, White House Fellows have promoted active citizenship and service to the nation. Additionally, the White House Fellowship Program has served as a "proving ground" for many of today's community, business and political leaders and will continue to do so for America's future leaders.

Ms. Wong currently serves as director of the Federal Support to Communities Initiative for the U.S. Department of Justice. The initiative, housed at the National Partnership for Reinventing Government, is an interagency project working with pilot cities around the country to respond more effectively to community needs, particularly in the area of youth development programming. She has played a leading role in this initiative, which works in partnership with communities, helping to provide better access to youth development funding and to furnish user-friendly information about the federal government to parents and families, community-based organizations, and state and local officials.

Ms. Wong has worked hard to achieve her standards of excellence. She received a bachelor's degree in English and Political Science, with honors and Phi Beta Kappa, from Stanford University, as well as a master's degree in Political Science from U.C., Berkeley. A recipient of a three-year National Science foundation graduate fellowship, Ms. Wong is a Ph.D. candidate in Political Science at U.C., Berkeley, where she is writing her dissertation on the politics of race and urban education reform. Ms. Wong is also a high school history and philosophy teacher at the College Preparatory School in Oakland, California. In her teaching position, she is a faculty advisor to a student group on a diversity and has launched an ethics program for the school's senior class. Ms. Wong is also the co-director of the school's Partner's Program, an academic summer school that serves low-income public students. She has also worked on nuclear non-proliferation issues at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and at the Arms Control Association.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here to recognize the accomplishments of Felicia Wong, and I hope my colleagues will join with me today in wishing Ms. Wong the very best as she continues her future endeavors.